

Martidja Banyjima Milli Milli

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Maitland Parker retires from Karijini National Park

MIB elder and Trust Chairman, Maitland Parker, has retired after 23 years of service with Department Environment & Conservation from his position as Park Ranger with Karijini National Park.

Upon retirement, Maitland had dinner with family, friends and staff past and present. At the dinner, Maitland was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a framed print of the panoramic view of Red Gorge located in the park as thanks for his many years of service and commitment to Karijini.

Maitland has many fond memories of his time as a Park Ranger at Karijini, but primarily he enjoyed his time the most by working on the country. He had many tasks

and roles to name a few - filming permits, fires, ferals, weeds, emergency rescues and visitor safety. Also dealing with Rio Tinto regarding their Marandoo Mine and infrastructure corridor in making sure they were doing the right thing. Although he has officially retired, Maitland will continue to be involved in Karijini as a park council member.

Maitland will also be kept well and truly busy as he continues his role with the MIB community as the Chairman of the MIB Trust Board and as an elder. Maitland is also involved in providing Cross Cultural Awareness Training to Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton at their Hope Downs, Yandi and Area C Mines with his associate and good friend, Bernie Ryder.



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If you are interested in contributing, or have suggestions for articles, for the next *Milli Milli*, please contact the office.

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Native Title Update

Following a report by Kingsley Palmer, MIB has been engaged in negotiations with the IB Native Title Claim Group for the purposes of trying to resolve the overlap between the two claim groups. The mediation is being conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal at the direction of the Federal Court.

MIB appointed a negotiation team to meet with the IB Negotiation Team and so far 4 negotiation meetings have been held in Tom Price and Karratha. The negotiation team has reported back to Claim Group meetings in Tom Price and Cane River.

The challenge for the MIB Native Title Claim Group is to decide whether or not they should combine into a single Banyjima Claim or pursue a Native Title determination for Fortescue Banyjima people. The MIB Claim Group will be called on to make a decision on this at a Claim Group Meeting in December. If the decision is made to pursue a single Banyjima claim then it is likely that the Native Title Claim will progress to seek a consent determination

with the State Government. If the Claim Group decide to pursue a Fortescue Banyjima Claim only, then this is likely to be listed for hearing in the Federal Court next year.

The single Banyjima Claim proposal arrived at by the negotiation teams is as follows:

1. There be a single Banyjima claim.
2. There be a single prescribed body corporate, however that body corporate is to have equal representation from MIB and the Banyjima members of the IB Claim Group on the Board of Directors (eg. 4 MIB and 4 IB).
3. The boundary between Top and Bottom End Banyjima will not be formally recognised in the new structure but Aboriginal Law and Culture will govern all aspects of the management of heritage within the claim area.
4. MIB will not dispute the inclusion of an ancestor known as "Daisy" as a Banyjima apical ancestor.
5. For the purposes of electing Board Members to the prescribed body corporate and the distribution of

benefits, MIB and IB members are to remain where they are. This means that the structure and membership of the existing MIB Trust will be preserved.

6. In principle, future royalties from agreements will be split 50/50 a between the MIB and IB Trust Groups.

7. Past agreements will be reviewed but MIB and IB will keep the benefits of their past agreements (eg. Area C Agreements).

The negotiation team have resolved to recommend this outcome to the Claim Group on the basis that it is, in their view, the best outcome they could negotiate without going to Court. MIB could get a better outcome by going to Court for Fortescue Banyjima people but there are more risks associated with this. The proposal has been endorsed by the IB Claim Group and will lead to a binding agreement if it is endorsed by the MIB Claim Group. If it is not endorsed by the MIB Claim Group then the Court will list the matter for hearing next year. [article provided by Paul Sheiner, Gadens Lawyers](#)

Board Meeting update

The MIB Board met on Tuesday 22 September and Wednesday 23 September 2009 in Perth. During this meeting the Board discussed a variety of issues such as:

- Homework House Project
- Production Payments
- Financial Results
- Auski Roadhouse
- Application for Assistance
- Weeli Wolli Water Project
- Keeping Place

The next Board Meeting will be held in December 2009.

Letter from Jayden

Dear Rick & M.I.B Board

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the M.I.B Board for the assistance you have given me for my trip to New Zealand where my Dad, Ben was able to be there for me and help support myself through my international fights.

I had 2x fights, representing Australia & The Australian Institute of sport. First fight was in Auckland in Newmarket. 26 points to 9 points. Second fight we travelled to Te Awamutu 2 hours south of Auckland. There I fought a Golden Gloves 54kg. 18-12 points I WON BOTH FIGHTS.

I trained extra hard and put in extra hours with my Dad getting out of bed 5.30am and hitting the boxing club, conditioning my body in preparation for these 2 international fights.

I was very excited and overwhelmed with my wins. All the extra training, I believe has paid off with wins. I have now had 10 fights – 7 wins 3 losses. My next goal is the Junior National Titles in November 2009 in Canberra at 52kg. After that I will fight in the SENIOR NATIONAL TITLES in March 2010. My major goals are COMMONWEALTH GAMES, then my ULTIMATE GOAL is 2012 OLYMPICS in London.

THANK YOU.

Jayden White/ Hansen.

BELOW: Jayden White/ Hansen



Carmen Robinson - trainee board member



• Why did you want to become a trainee board member?

Its good to have an opportunity to work at board level and also so I can let people know how the process works and to develop my own skill levels. It also assists in my current work and enhances when I'm dealing with my clients for example Corporate Governance. I have a background and understanding of Business Plans, Strategic Plans and Financial Statement Analysis so I can utilize my experience and skills to have input in decision making.

• What are you looking forward to most in the role as trainee board member?

Basically to know first hand how decisions are reached and know what the roles and responsibilities of the Board Members are.

• What do you think are some of the most important tasks of an MIB board member?

To have a big picture approach for the benefit of all members.

I would also like to add - Coming from a member's perspective and sitting at the board level I now realise that the Board have been open and transparent with their decision making and other issues/ topics discussed. As a member, it's given me confidence in the board and it's processes.

Martu Iḍja Banyjima Young Gun, Gerrick Weedon

BELOW: Gerrick Weedon and his mother Louanne Salmon



As a proud grandmother, I would like to express my feelings in the development and the progress of my grandson Gerrick Weedon.

As a young lad Gerrick started playing junior football in Tom Price.

Gerrick was sent to Clontarf College in Perth from Broome in the Kimberleys to attend secondary school at Clontarf College where he graduated in year 12 in 2008.

He is a keen sports person, he likes playing basketball and football.

Gerrick has been playing football for Claremont Football Club Colts to come premiers to win their first WAFL premiership in 12 years.

I would like to encourage other Banyjima members to get behind your child or grand children and support them in any which way. It is so hard for our young students living in the country to leave home and get used to the city life.

I am awaiting for the AFL draft in November to hear which AFL team will select Gerrick in 2010.

By Proud Grandmother Margaret Parker, Elder and MIB Director

As we go to print, we've been advised that Gerrick has been drafted by the West Coast Eagles as pick no. 22. More on that in the next Milli Milli.

Ronnelle Hicks - another MIB success story!

Ronnelle Hicks graduated as an Aboriginal Language Teacher on 9 October 2009 in Broome. The following is an excerpt of a telephone interview with Ronnelle:

Why did you want to become a teacher?

Because I wanted to make a difference in an aboriginal child's life. When I was 15 years old I took on a job in a child care centre as a junior carer. I really enjoyed it and worked there until I was 20. I then trained as a Teachers Assistant for 2 years and applied for a job in Tom Price to be close to my family. I then got a job at Tom Price Primary School as an Aboriginal Islander Education Officer and found I had the passion for teaching. I especially wanted to improve the education of my people and keep our native tongue, Banyjima, alive

What are you looking forward to most when you become a teacher?

I am looking forward to giving back to my community and providing an understanding of aboriginal culture. Also improving on aboriginal educational outcomes through literacy and numeracy and promoting respect and harmony for the school and broader community through aboriginal language teaching.

What does your teaching future hold?

I am currently working as Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Education in Karratha. I'm looking at working in my homeland Tom Price teaching in my native tongue Banyjima.

BELOW: Ronnelle Hicks



I would very much like to state that without my parents Dawn and Les Hicks support I would not have achieved what I have done now as my parents have been supporting me through out my education endeavours.